



Sac and Fox News  
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# Chief's Address To The Nation



Tribal Members,  
I take this opportunity to wish you and family the very best as we enter the holiday seasons with much anticipation of a joyous Christmas; Thanksgiving meal; breaks from school activities; and just enjoying time with our families.

I ask that you please make note of the times when the tribal offices are closed for the holidays. This information is listed elsewhere within the newspaper; we will be open to provide services for our people, yet allow time for our employees to enjoy the Holidays as well.

I especially remind you of what the holidays truly mean; celebrating our Savior's birth; giving thanks for our many blessings; and fellowship with the families that God has blessed us with. God Bless!



Chief George Thurman

## Upcoming Events

**November 9, 2012**

Elders  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
Community Center  
11am - 1:30pm

**November 11, 2012**

Veterans Day  
Gourd Danced  
2:00 pm  
**November 13, 5 pm**  
Sac & Fox Nation  
Veterans' Meeting  
Elders Bldg Stroud

**November 14, 2012**

Elders Advisory  
Committee Meeting  
Stroud  
Potluck & White  
Elephant Bingo  
10am - ?

**November 17, 2012**

Josh Williamson  
Memorial  
Mens Basketball  
Tournament

**December 8, 2012**

Elders Winter Pow-wow  
& Big Ticket Raffle  
2pm - 10pm  
Sac & Fox Gym

### \*LOCAL NEWS

*United States Department of Agriculture Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (USDA / FDPIR) – FDPIR Regional Vendor Pilot Awarded*

Laura Castro, Director, Food Distribution Division, USDA Food and Nutrition Service of Alexandria, VA announced that they have awarded the FDPIR regional vendor pilot contract for the first year to four Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) in Oklahoma, including the Sac and Fox Nation.

Background about the pilot and the award: Under the current national warehouse model, USDA buys food for the FDPIR food package. Two USDA-contracted warehouses distribute the food to participating Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and State agencies and administer FDPIR. Under the pilot, USDA contracts with a vendor to supply food. The vendor buys FDPIR-approved foods and distributes them directly to FDPIR sites. USDA FNS anticipates that the Regional Vendor Model would (1) provide fresher products for participants; (2) potentially allow for greater opportunity to buy traditional and/or local foods from Native American producers; and (3) potentially reduce overall storage and transportation costs which are attributed to the National Warehouse Model.

For the initial year of the pilot, MDV Nash Finch proposed to serve four tribes in Oklahoma who volunteered for the pilot: the Sac and Fox Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Pawnee Nation, and Ponca Tribe. The vendor selected these sites from among all those who volunteered for the pilot based on the sites' proximity to customers currently served by MDV Nash Finch. The remaining FDPIR programs will continue to be served under the national warehouse model while the pilot is underway.

Sam Spang, Sac and Fox Nation FDPIR Director, commented on the selection: "I've heard nothing but good things on the tribal side regarding the last Regional Vendor Pilot that took place 10 yrs ago, which was unfortunately not implemented nationwide as it wasn't deemed cost effective at the time. By utilizing our smaller Regional Vendor, as opposed to the obsolete/massive National Vendor Model we've become accustomed to, I'm sure we'll see many immediate improvements to our food package quality and availability and possibly even some testing of new traditional foods (venison, buffalo, salmon, dried corn, dried hominy, wild rice, etc.) that USDA isn't able to procure on a national level ... it's definitely an exciting time for our program with many possibilities!"

### Court Case(s) Update

*NGS v. Sac and Fox Nation / Sauk Business Enterprises (SBE)*. This case has been ongoing since 2005, over 7 1/2 years, and the deadline for NGS to appeal the US District Court Western District of Oklahoma decision has passed. The Sac and

Fox Nation and Sauk Business Enterprises have emerged victorious! We will continue to pursue attorney fees by having our attorney(s) filing a copy of the Order and renewing the request for oral argument and a hearing before the Sac and Fox Nation District Court. It is possible that the Sac and Fox Courts may be disinclined to award fees and to let the dispute conclude as it is. Michael McBride, Crowe & Dunlevy, P.C., Tulsa, OK represents the named party(s).

*Jose Montalvo v. Sac and Fox Tribe, Inc. Sac & Fox Tribe, Inc. v. Montalvo*, No-CJ-2011-96 (Dist. Ct. Garvin County, Okla.) and *Montalvo v. Sac & Fox Tribe, Inc.*, No. CJ-2011-99 (Dist. Ct. Garvin County, Okla.): Sac and Fox Tribe, Inc. ("SFTI") and Jose Montalvo each filed lawsuits asserting claims arising from alleged breached of a contract entered into by SFTI to purchase the Redbud Compost manufacturing business. The cases had been consolidated and have since been dismissed with both parties, through mediation, settling out of court. Stephen

Ward, Connor & Winters, Tulsa, OK represented Sac & Fox Tribe, Inc.

### Resolution SF/GC -13-01.

During the annual Governing Council meeting held August 25, 2012, Governing Council passed Resolution SF/GC-13-01. The motion by resolution was reviewed, questioned whether it was unconstitutional, and referred to the Attorney General Gregory Bigler for an Opinion. His answer:

"Opinion 2012-10-08

Regarding The Constitutionality of Resolution SF/GC-13-01 allowing Grievance Procedure appeals to the Sac and Fox District Court only after a Final Order of the Governing Council.

"Dear Chief Thurman:

"You requested an Attorney General opinion regarding the constitutionality of a Governing Council Resolution that directed in Grievance Proceedings 'an elected official shall have the right to appeal to the Sac and Fox Nation District Court only after a Final Order of the Governing Council.' At the outset, I note that the Attorney General opinion's

are binding upon administrative officers and employees of the Nation, however, they do not bind officers or entities that derive their authority directly from the SFN Constitution. The Courts of the Nation are the final authority on matters of Sac and Fox Constitutional interpretation and ultimately their decision on this matter will be binding. Nonetheless, this Opinion will hopefully give guidance to you as it is based upon clear statements from the Sac and Fox Courts.

"Analysis. The resolution brings into consideration several of the Sac and Fox Nation's Constitutional entities and how they relate to each other and their role within the Sac and Fox Nation's structure.

"The SFN code provides a mechanism for removal of elected officials, found at the Sac and Fox "Constitution, Article IV - Grievance Committee. Specifically, a Grievance Committee is created. Section 2 of Article IV states: The Grievance Committee, under such procedures as shall be

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Peggy F. Acoya



William (Bill) Thorpe  
(photos by Stella Nullake)



Stella Wilson

## Sac and Fox Tribal Members Recipients of AARP Annual Indian Elder Honors

Thirty five Oklahoma Native American Tribes and Nations joined with AARP to celebrate the lives of honored elders at the 4th Annual AARP Indian Elder Honors held Tuesday evening, October 2, in Oklahoma City.

Tribal officials, friends and family members converged on the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum along with AARP state, regional and national officials to recognize language preservationists, artists, dancers, ministers, authors, patriarchs and matriarchs that have impacted their tribes, communities and state.

AARP also announced the formation of an Inter-Tribal Community Group that will meet on community issues and is open to all 50+ Native Americans in Oklahoma. To find more information or join this group, e-mail ok@aarp.org or call 1-866-295-7277.

Among honorees recognized at the event was one of the few remaining Oklahoma Indians who speaks only her native language, a world-champion fancy dancer and a noted artist who is 100 years old.

AARP National Board Member Joan Ruff, who delivered the keynote address, said, "We hope

the partnerships we've established here will be the foundation to create partnerships between AARP and other Native American nations in other states.

But tonight our focus isn't on AARP. It's on you, the elders, and the contributions you've made to improve the lives of people around you – in your own tribes, the greater tribal community, in the state of Oklahoma, our nation, and even around the world.

Your lives are rich, living stories being passed on to the next generations."

Ruff, along with AARP Oklahoma State President Marjorie Lyons, Regional Vice President Nancy Stockbridge and Associate State Director Mashell Sourjohn presented each honoree with a medallion.

"Once again, we have come together in the spirit of goodwill and harmony to celebrate the remarkable lives of Native American elders from across the state," Lyons said. "Though they come from different backgrounds and cultures, we see in the honorees, the common bond they share – respect, dignity and service to their fellow man."

AARP has a dedicated website featuring resources and in-

formation for Oklahoma Indian Elders which can be accessed at: [www.aarp.org/okindiannavigator.org](http://www.aarp.org/okindiannavigator.org)

Among those honored was Sac and Fox tribal members, Peggy F. Acoya, William (Bill) Thorpe and Stella Wilson.

Peggy served as the Secretary of the Sac and Fox Nation in the 1960s and worked at the Bureau of Indian Affairs to improve housing and building projects. During her time at the BIA she worked with the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain of Colorado, the Shoshoni and Northern Arapahoe of Wind River, Wyoming and other tribes in North Dakota and Nebraska. She also worked for the National Congress of American Indians assisting with Economic Development programs. Peggy participates in the timeless traditional dances of the Sac and Fox and spends time explaining customs and stories to her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

William (Bill) Thorpe, patriarch of the Jim Thorpe family, has taken over the role as the leader of his family. He has made himself available to help the children of any and all tribes as he pays homage and honor to his father

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